

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-53 (canceled)

Claim 54 (currently amended): A method for playing a gaming machine, the gaming machine having a plurality of game symbols, said method comprising:

- a. randomly displaying a combination of the plurality of game symbols in the gaming machine, the plurality of game symbols at least including award value symbols and end of game symbols,
- b. determining the award values in any award value symbols randomly displayed in the combination in the gaming machine in response to the step of randomly displaying,
- c. accumulating in the gaming machine the determined award values to an accumulated winnings value,
- d. repeating in the gaming machine steps a, b, and c until a predetermined number of end game symbols ~~is~~ have been randomly displayed,
- e. ending play in the gaming machine when the predetermined number is reached.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of claim 54 wherein the predetermined number is one.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of claim 54 further including null symbols in the game symbols.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The method of claim 54 wherein the award value symbols include positive integer values.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The method of claim 54 wherein the award value symbols include negative integer values.

Claim 59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (currently amended): The method of claim 54 further comprising:
ending ~~the bonus game~~ play in the gaming machine when a player stop signal is received in response to the step of accumulating, and awarding the accumulated winnings value in response to the received player stop signal.

Claim 61 (currently amended): The method of claim 54 further comprising:
determining when the accumulated winnings value at least equals a predetermined winnings value, ending ~~the bonus game,~~ play in the gaming machine, and awarding the accumulated winnings value.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The method of claim 54 wherein the predetermined number is one and the end game symbol is a lose symbol.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A method for playing a bonus game, the bonus game having a plurality of game symbols, said method comprising:

- a. randomly displaying a combination of game symbols from the plurality of game symbols in the bonus game, the plurality of game symbols at least including award value symbols and at least one end of game symbol,
- b. determining award values in any award value symbols randomly displayed in the combination in the bonus game in response to the step of randomly displaying,
- c. accumulating in the bonus game the determined award values to an accumulated winnings value,
- d. repeating in the bonus game steps a, b, and c until the accumulated winnings value reaches a predetermined value,

e. ending the bonus game when the predetermined value is reached and the at least one end game symbol has not been displayed in any combination of game symbols.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method of claim 63 further comprising:
paying an award different from the predetermined value in response to ending the bonus game.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method of claim 63 further comprising:
paying a progressive jackpot in response to ending the bonus game.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The method of claim 63 further comprising:
paying the predetermined value in response to ending the bonus game.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A method for playing a casino bonus game, the casino bonus game having a plurality of game symbols, said method comprising:

- a. setting a count value to zero when the casino bonus game starts,
- b. incrementing the count value each play of a casino bonus game,
- c. randomly displaying a combination of game symbols from the plurality of game symbols in each play of the casino bonus game, the plurality of game symbols including at least one end game symbol,
- d. repeating in the bonus game steps b, and c until the count value reaches a predetermined value,
- e. ending the casino bonus game when the predetermined value is reached and the at least one end game symbol has not been randomly displayed in any combination of game symbols.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The method of claim 67 further comprising:
paying a jackpot bonus in response to ending the casino bonus game.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A method for playing a casino bonus game when a bonus qualifying signal issues during play of a casino gaming machine comprising:

- accumulating award values in a display during play of the casino bonus game,
- receiving a player stop signal from a player input during play of the casino bonus game,
- displaying an end of bonus game symbol in the display during play of the casino bonus game,
- awarding at least the accumulated award values in response to receiving the player stop signal and before the end of bonus game symbol is displayed in the display,
- ending play of the casino bonus game in response to awarding,
- ending play of the casino bonus game in response to displaying the end of bonus game symbol before receiving the player stop signal.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The method of claim 69 further including null symbols in the game symbols.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method of claim 69 wherein the value symbols include negative integer values.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of claim 69 wherein the value symbols include multipliers.